

2008 and served as an Elder in New Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida.

Annabelle returned to New York in June 2009 and passed on the morning of August 1st, 2009. She will be remembered as a visionary who believed deeply in her work in the ministry. Her family and friends will remember her great culinary skills, her sense of style, her willingness to listen and her quick wit. Her legacy will live on through her children Donna, Sylvia, Eartha Lee, William, Bobby, Cynthia, Valerie, Yvonne, Jeffery and his wife Patricia and Paul and his wife Gloria. She is also survived by 14 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, a host of loving god-children and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009. I oppose this bill because, as the nonpartisan CBO has reported, it will cost taxpayers more than \$15 billion over 10 years. And it could also eliminate as many as 30,000 private-sector jobs.

In fact, H.R. 3221 will eliminate choice, competition, and innovation, while growing government and increasing the deficit. This bill will eliminate choice and competition by ending the Federal Family Education Loan Program and giving the Federal Government a monopoly over student aid financing.

This bill will also reduce innovation and grow the government by expanding mandatory and entitlement spending by billions of dollars.

When will the massive spending and Federal takeover end?

Congress should not be growing government and increasing the debt burden on taxpayers. It has no business putting taxpayers on the hook for defaulted student loans when the private sector would gladly bear this risk.

As Herbert Hoover once said, "blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the national debt." That is a sad truth. We should be working to lessen that burden, not take away their choices and reduce their chances to succeed.

Parents, college presidents, and financial aid professionals are against this takeover. They are the experts on this issue because they are the ones that have to foot the bill. I urge my colleagues to hear them and vote no on this legislation.

HONORING GAIL-BURNS SMITH

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of

Gail Burns-Smith, a tireless advocate for victims of sexual assault and abuse. When Gail passed away unexpectedly on September 5th, our country lost an unspoken hero for women everywhere.

As the Executive Director of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services for twenty-two years, Gail drew critical attention to the prevalence of sexual abuse and the need to end assault and support its victims. She successfully secured federal funding for organizations working to end sexual abuse and assist victims and was instrumental in passing numerous laws in Connecticut that work to protect our residents against assault. A leader in her field, Gail recognized early on the need for collaboration between victim advocates and sex offender treatment providers.

On the national level, Gail worked with the Center for Treatment of Problem Sexual Behavior to develop the first Victim Advocate Program for sex offender treatment, which became recognized as the national model for such programs. She cofounded the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, an organization that helped to secure passage of the National Violence Against Women Act. Gail also helped to establish the national Women of Color Leadership Project which evolved into the nonprofit Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault (SCESA).

While we have made great strides thanks to champions like Gail, the work to protect and support sexual assault victims is not over. Today, nearly one in five Connecticut residents has experienced a sexual assault. Twenty-six percent of Connecticut women and 10 percent of Connecticut men are sexual assault survivors. Further, many sexual assault treatment centers are experiencing dramatic cuts to their funding and have become limited in their outreach efforts. Just as Gail did, we must continue to champion efforts to end sexual assault and provide help and compassion to victims. She was a true role model and will be dearly missed.

CONGRATULATING THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 215, a resolution congratulating the Minority Business Development Agency on its 40th anniversary and commending its achievements in fostering the establishment and growth of minority businesses in the United States. I know in my own district MBDA is an integral part of the economic development of Orlando. In fiscal year 2008, the MBDA's Florida Minority Business Opportunity Center (MBOC) in Orlando helped minority businesses get \$13.6 million in contracts and \$29 million in financial transactions.

This year in 2009, one of their local success stories includes APC Workforce Solutions, a contract labor, acquisition and management company. With the assistance of the MBDA's Florida Minority Business Opportunity Center, APC recently received a three-year renewable

\$45 million per year contract from Sunoco, Inc. to provide staffing services. The contract is that resulted in the creation of 30 new jobs.

MBDA and its network of centers across the country are helping businesses like APC every day. That's why last year MBDA helped minority businesses get over \$1 billion worth of contracts, \$1 billion worth of financial transactions that helped create more than 5,300 jobs across the country. In this tough economy, agencies like MBDA are helping minority-owned firms succeed and Congress needs to do a better job of recognizing the important job MBDA has been doing over the past 40 years. I am ashamed to say that MBDA was overlooked in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and there was no specific language in ARRA for minority businesses.

In 2050, the minority community will represent 54 percent of the total U.S. population. It is imperative to the continued strength of the U.S. economy to provide for the growth and expansion of minority businesses. The nation is failing to reap the benefits of economic parity through the creation of 16 million jobs, generating \$2.5 trillion in gross receipts and an unrealized tax base of more than \$100 billion per year. Congress must do more to help the minority business community.

I like to say when America has a cold, the African-American community has pneumonia. Right now, Congress is ignoring the long-term health of our economy by ignoring the needs of minority businesses.

Minority-owned firms are in the position to generate long-term employment and economic sustainability in their communities. Minority firms provide nearly 5 million people with steady jobs and create wealth in minority communities. They create jobs, impact local and state economies and pursue global market-places.

MBDA's long term strategic direction is achieving economic parity for minority firms. Economic parity is a benchmark measured by the proportion of U.S. business owned by minorities being roughly equal to the percent of their population. MBDA is focused on creating a new generation of \$100 million dollar minority businesses creating the foundation that helps to close the gap in annual revenues between minority-owned firms and non-minority owned firms. At economic parity, the diverse business community will be larger than the economies of Russia, Italy or Spain. At economic parity, we reduce the unemployment rate from the current level of about 9.4 percent to 7.5 percent. At economic parity, the tax-base that is generated could fund 100 percent of Head Start, 100 percent of State Children's Health Insurance Program or a full 10 percent of the cost estimate to reform healthcare.

In closing, I'd like to again congratulate the Minority Business Development Agency on their 40th Anniversary and reiterate the importance of minority businesses to the economy.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act because it will increase our deficit, but not help Americans with the expense of college. This bill is just one more area where the President and his party's leadership in the House are seeking to take over private industry. This is yet another one-size-fits-all government program intended to cripple the private sector and force additional financial risk on the American taxpayer.

In the last few months, we have watched the national debt level grow at an unprecedented rate. We spent billions of dollars bailing out the automobile industry. We have thrown good money after bad to prop up portions of the financial sector that we are told are "too big to fail." We've bailed out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, only to watch the housing industry continue to flounder. We have spent more than \$780 billion on a stimulus package that has left us with higher unemployment than we had before the bill. And in the next few weeks, we will need to raise the debt ceiling again.

Claims that this bill will save the nation billions of dollars look like a budget gimmick to pay for new government programs. Government has grown enough in recent years. We need to be looking for ways to save money and reduce our deficit, not spend "projected savings" on new, duplicative programs.

Furthermore, the money that supporters claim will be made available by these budget gimmicks is only expected to cover the first five years of these new programs. After that, Congress will be forced to find alternative sources of funding for them, or eliminate them. This is as productive as a credit card offering no payments for six months. This is a very poor way to manage the finances of the nation.

A second big problem I see with H.R. 3221 is the federalization of the student loan industry. If we run out of money for this program in the future, what happens to the students? With no private lenders, the students are left without any other source of funding for their education.

Fifteen years ago, when the federal government first got involved in the business of providing student loans, Congress was told that this was not an attempt for the federal government to take over the student loan industry, but simply a way to improve the system, and provide "competition" to the private sector. Yet, fifteen years later, here we are, debating a bill that would force private lenders out of the industry.

Does this argument sound familiar? It should. These are the same explanations being offered today by the President and by Democrat leaders in the House and Senate on health care. We are told that the bill will not lead to a government takeover of health care. Proponents say that a "government option" will simply compete, not replace, private health insurance plans. But I wonder, if the health care bill were to pass, how long would it be before this body is having a similar vote to eliminate private health insurance plans.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this bill. This is a big government takeover of a private industry that will saddle taxpayers with the risk of billions in additional

debt, while shrinking access to resources for future generations of students. In short, Madam Speaker, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST.
JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF JEWETT, OHIO

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, Whereas, the dedicated people of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church celebrate the church's 150th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, this milestone is the result of what a tempered people began in 1859; and

Whereas, occasions such as these illustrate to us that love mixed with grace and trust will stand the test of time; and

Whereas, it is the fond wish of this body that you will continue to present this work as an example to congregations and faith communities everywhere; and

Whereas, you have demonstrated excellence in your calling as a church, as anything less would have left you bereaved of such a jubilant occasion, and we are proud to have you as sons and daughters in the great state of Ohio and of our nation; be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the congregation for your unwavering labor and commitment, recognizing that all great achievements come with extraordinary effort. With great appreciation and respect, we wish you continued abundant grace as you continue to labor for your community and your faith.

TO RECOGNIZE THOMAS JEFFERSON
HIGH SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY FOR BEING
NAMED A 2009 NATIONAL BLUE
RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology for being designated a 2009 National Blue Ribbon School. In 2009, 314 schools from 47 states were named National Blue Ribbon Schools. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology is one of only two high schools from Virginia so honored for 2009 and in fact, is the only public high school in the Commonwealth to receive this prestigious designation.

The National Blue Ribbon School Program began in 1982 as part of a larger Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices. Since the program's inception, over 6,150 American schools have received this coveted award. This award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or have made dramatic gains in student

achievement and helped close gaps in achievement among minority and disadvantaged students.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology has a long history of academic excellence. It has fielded more National Merit Semifinalists than any other high school in America for most of the 1990s and 2000s. From 2000 to 2005, it fielded more United States of America Mathematical Olympiad qualifiers than any other high school in America and has a distinguished history of U.S. Physics Olympiad Team members and medal winners. In 2007 the school had more Intel Science Talent Search Semifinalists (14) than any other school and in 2009, this feat was repeated with 15 semifinalists.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology was ranked as the top high school in the nation by PrepReview in 2004. In that same year, it had the highest average SAT score among all American high schools, both public and private.

It was also ranked number 1 among "America's Best High Schools" in a study by U.S. News and World Report in 2007 and again in 2008. For schools with more than 800 students in grades 10–12, TJHSST was cited as having the highest-performing AP Calculus BC, AP Chemistry, AP French Language, AP Government and Politics: U.S., and AP U.S. History courses among all schools worldwide.

It is fitting that Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology can now add its designation as a National Blue Ribbon School to their extensive list of other extraordinary achievements.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology on receiving this honor. I also ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the principal, Dr. Evan Glazer along with the entire staff, student body and their families for their commitment to excellence in education.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL
RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. Today's bill provides access to education and builds a strong 21st Century workforce.

It provides access to college by ensuring that students have a reliable source of affordable federal loans. It simplifies the FAFSA to make it easier to apply for assistance. And it guarantees the Pell grant as a key to college affordability by indexing the maximum award to the Consumer Price Index plus one percent.

SAFRA will also help students stay in college with a new federal emphasis on college completion. As increasing numbers of Americans turn to community college for job training, this bill invests \$3 billion to fund programs to retain and graduate students.